

WHAT IS SERVICE LEARNING?

Service Learning is a teaching methodology that links learning in the classroom with meaningful community service.

SERVICE LEARNING FACULTY HALL OF FAME

Anne Auten

Josephine Books

Leanne Eggessa

Diane Elifrits

Barbara Hansmeier

Kristi Kelly

Vicki Knickerbocker

Jon Larson

Teresa LeMire

Megan Lifo

Connie Manos-Andrea

Andrew Martin

Alan Miller

Sandra Morissette

Jan Ochman

Sherri Rademacher

Cheryl Redinger

Tom Reis

American Sign Language in Action

Real world application of learning, exposure to new cultures, and a sense of making a difference are some of the core benefits of service learning at IHCC. This semester, students in Sherri Rademacher's Introduction to American Sign Language courses gained this and more from their service learning experiences.

Each semester, ASL students select a service learning opportunity working alongside the deaf community. This fall, ASL students led signing activities with residents at Arbors at Ridges Assisted Living, tutored deaf students at Five Hawks Elementary School, and participated in local Deaf Socials and Signing Clubs.

Students appreciate the two-way, reciprocal learning that takes place through their service. Kelsey Dekart worked a concession stand at sporting events with Minnesota State Academy for

the Deaf. "They seemed to really enjoy me being there" said Kelsey. "They understood that I'm learning so they signed slowly." Most of Kelsey's peers agree that they overcame their fears of signing through their immersion experiences.



ASL Students Natalie Meier and Vickie Lee at Barnes and Noble Deaf Social

Instructor Sherri Rademacher recognizes that learning a new language is intertwined with learning the culture. She notices that her students, in these environments, for the first time get a glimpse into the Deaf world. "Beyond learning sign language, they sense our

values in language, culture, and tradition inside and outside the classroom." Perhaps this is the most valuable lesson of all.

Biology Students Supply Food Shelf

This fall, Instructor Megan Lifo involved her Anatomy and Physiology students in a simple but meaningful service activity. Students in her courses earned 7 bonus points for bringing in 7 non-perishable items to donate to a local food shelf.

Students assisted in loading the goods onto the vehicle, and

Megan hand-delivered the donations to Neighborhood House Food Shelf in South St. Paul. The generosity and efforts of Megan's students collected 435 pounds of food to help families in our community.



Biology Instructor Megan Lifo with Student Donations

IHCC Students Launch Service Learning Website

"I really enjoyed the experience of working with a diverse group of individuals. I gained a better awareness of how to work with other cultures."

-Jenna Kirchner

"I felt challenged at times, which is good. I grew from the experience."

-Kainani Bye

"I learned ways to communicate with the elderly population in different circumstances, to gain their trust, and maintain a friendly relationship."

- Anu Kshetrapal

"I love it there! I'm going to continue volunteering past my 15 hour requirement."

-Julie Alice Capistrant

IHCC Service Learning is happy to introduce our new and improved website! The site features service learning resources for faculty and students, as well as a comprehensive list of community partners that host IHCC service learners.

The site creation was a collaborative effort between Service Learning Director Emily Zoeller, IT Jason Lachowsky, and students Robert Stewart, Cora Aldrich, and Abdullani Mohamed. These students elected this project to fulfill a service learning requirement in Vicki

Knickerbocker's courses.

Robert, Cora, and Abdullani played a major role in the researching of community partners. They developed key questions to guide their research. They visited each of the community sites to gather information on the agency's mission and student roles as service learners at that agency. The research team was able to compare and contrast the different sites, and decide on

which would be good matches to post on the IHCC service learning website.

For Robert Stewart, this research allowed him to see first-hand the implementation of ideas he was learning about in his Introduction to Human Services Class. "These community sites proved that efforts to help others were not simply noble concepts, but ideas already in motion with real persons and real efforts." behind them."

Visit us at www.ihcc.edu/StudentResources/ServiceLearning

Lego Robot Challenge

A robot made from legos? Some extraordinary IHCC students are collaborating with Neighborhood House and students from Humboldt Junior High in an exciting project. Their task: design, construct, and program a robot from Legos Mindstorm Kit. The robot needs to be able to perform a given function. Teams will compete amongst other high schools at a state-wide competition in March.

Four talented math and science students from Inver



Physics student Jonathan Lund supports a Humboldt student in assembling the Lego Robot

serve as coaches to Humboldt students in this innovative project. Jonathan Lund, Andy

Vang, Khang Tran and Wilfredo Tropezado Jr. share some of their classroom knowledge and expertise with the younger students in the process. Jonathan Lund (left) enjoys being a role model for the students, and encouraging them to pursue math and science as fields of study.

The Lego Robot project will continue next semester. Teams hope to visit IHCC campus this spring to demonstrate their robots to an audience of college students.

Service Learning and Multicultural Affairs win grant

Inver Hills Community College Service Learning and Multicultural Affairs were awarded \$19,900 to fund a grant titled "College Retention through Civic Engagement". The grant was awarded by Minnesota Campus Compact, to be implemented over three semesters beginning Spring, 2008.

The College Retention through Civic Engagement grant aims to improve our campus climate for immigrant students. Community Partners Neighborhood House and Community Action Council will play an integral role in the project. Two sequential classes titled "Awareness and Action" will be offered in

2008-2009. In these classes, students will work alongside local immigrant communities to engage in two-way reciprocal learning and joint activism. Faculty will be invited to participate in on-going professional development on service learning and the retention of immigrant students.

Spotlight on Dakota Woodlands

It's no wonder 12 IHCC students elected Dakota Woodlands for their site of service learning last semester. A local non-profit human service organization, Dakota Woodlands is the only short term housing facility for women and children in Dakota County. Dakota Woodlands seeks to empower homeless women to create stable futures for their families. Inver Students play an integral role in the process.

Last semester, students from Jan Ochman's psychology courses, Tom Reis's Multicultural Awareness course, and Vicki Knickerbocker's Introduction to Human Services course all provided services to Dakota Woodlands in different capacities. Students worked alongside Dakota

Kristin Hocks at Dakota Woodlands Childcare Center



Woodlands residents in providing childcare, tutoring, assisting with facility upkeep, and managing the food shelf.

Ginni Lambert, coordinator of volunteers at Dakota Woodlands, speaks highly of Inver Hills service learners and describes them as responsible, compassionate, and eager to help. She enjoys watching the interaction the students have. Ginni commented, "We rely

heavily on volunteers and students learn a bit about homelessness and our work. It really is a win-win."

It is not uncommon for students at Dakota Woodlands to donate service hours beyond their course requirements, or to continue on serving as a volunteer after the semester ends. Ginni recalls one student last semester who had to drop her classes due to a family emergency, but still fulfilled her service learning commitment as a volunteer.

Other students share that their service learning at Dakota Woodlands offered them an opportunity for career direction. Kristin Hocks, an IHCC

psychology student, supervised children and led activities at the on-site Childcare Center. Kristin always knew she was interested in early child development, and considered education as a



Kristin Hocks and Ginni Lambert coordinate a schedule for service learning at Dakota Woodlands

future field of study. Her service learning

at Dakota Woodlands fine-tuned her idea of what she wanted to do. She had an eye-opening and rewarding experience working with kids from disadvantaged circumstances –kids whose life situations often don't allow for of a solid family structure. Kristin is now committed to working with this specific population, and offering kids the nurturing and support they sometimes don't get from home. She envisions herself as a manager of a daycare center at her own house. Kristin is grateful for the new perspective she gained through her service learning.

SERVICE LEARNING AT A GLANCE

This fall, IHCC service learning involved...

306 students

16 courses

52 community partners

4,857 hours of service

A Local Hero

Each semester, over 300 students participate in service learning. One of these students took his service learning to a new level of civic engagement.

Nursing student Josh Dworak served as a senior buddy to an elder at Como Park Block Nurse Program in Roseville. Josh's duties included weekly visits with his senior to observe the senior's environment, practice

practice communication, and set professional boundaries.

Josh went above and beyond his call of duty. Accompanying his senior to the pharmacy across the street from the residence, Josh witnessed many near accidents at the busy crosswalk. Josh had concerns about the safety of his senior on her trips to the pharmacy.

Josh met first with the residence coordinator about this issue. He then took his concerns to a local police sergeant, who agreed to increase patrol in the area. Josh is currently working with City Council to advocate for a traffic light to be installed at the crosswalk outside the residence.

Stay tuned for updates on Josh's activism efforts.



Nursing Student Josh Dworak

What object would you use as a symbol of your service learning experience? Urban Education Students' Service Learning Reflections



"A sponge. I am trying to absorb as much knowledge from this experience as I can."

—Olena Lundquist



"I once saw a drawing of the earth and around the outer edge were drawings of people of all different races

holding hands. Each week I walk into this school and know this is what the world should be... people of all races working and learning side by side."

—Jennifer Thompson

"A bird on the wing. I picture the students showing up for their urban education service learning experience, teetering on an unfamiliar branch, unsure of which way the wind will blow, either feeling secure in place with wings confidently folded, or keeping their wings ready in case they're knocked off the perch..."

—Dr. Anne Auten, Director of IHCC Urban Education



"A swimming pool because it might be cold when you get in but as you swim you warm up to it. It can be tiring but at the end of the day when the pool closes, you learned something."

—Jamie Waggoner

"A treat bag. Outside these children are all different, like the outside of a treat bag. When you open them up, they have all sorts of different surprises in them. They can make you happy in all different kinds of ways."

-Katie Kortum



Inver Hills Service Learning Mission Statement:

IHCC Service Learning strives to engage students in active learning that stimulates critical thinking and reflection, addresses genuine community needs, and fosters lifelong civic engagement.



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